

African Violet

MAGAZINE



2023 Convention Show Winners P.6

***S. goetzeanus* Blooms P.30**

Wick Watering 101 P.34

AVSA Information

FOR CONDUCTING BUSINESS WITH YOUR SOCIETY

For accurate service, send your inquiries to the correct person.
Always include your name and address.

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- **AVSA Office Address:** AVSA, P.O. Box 22417, Beaumont, TX 77720
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- **Official Correspondence:** AVSA Secretary, P.O. Box 22417, Beaumont, TX 77720. *Email:* secretary@avsa.org.

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- **New or Renewal Membership:** Membership application available on page 55 of this issue or at www.africanviolet.societyofamerica.org/participate/membership. Send check payable to AVSA in U.S. dollars from a U.S. bank; VISA or Mastercard for new or renewable membership to AVSA Office; or pay online.
- **Change of Address:** Send new address to AVSA Office at least 30 days before it is to take effect, along with old address.
- **Membership Cards:** Sent to Associate Members. Renewing members receive card on white protective cover of *AVM*.
- **Membership Committee:** Send ideas, offers to help and requests for assistance to Stephen Covolo-Hudson.
Email: membership@avsa.org.
- **Affiliate Committee:** For information on how to organize a chapter, write Mary Thompson. *Email:* affiliate@avsa.org.

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- **Shows and Judges Committee:** Mary Corondan.
Email: judges@avsa.org.
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- **Judges' Duplicate Cards:** Send self-addressed, stamped envelope to Mary Corondan, 434 Plumwood Way, Fairview, TX 75069. *Email:* judges@avsa.org.

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- **Fundraising:** Randy G. Deutsch, Chair.
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- **Funds:** Booster Donations, Boyce Edens Research Fund, Barbara Burde Endowment Fund, Anne & Frank Tinari Endowment Fund.
- **Payment:** Contribute through the website or mail to AVSA Office; please designate fund.

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- **Coming Events:** Send to Editor or fill out event form on www.africanviolet.societyofamerica.org by publication deadline.
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Email: research@avsa.org.
- **AVSA Scholarship Program:** Dr. Charles Ramser.
Email: scholarship@avsa.org.

■ AVSA Convention

- **Convention:** Kathy Lahti, Convention Chair.
Email: convention@avsa.org.
- **2024 Convention:** April 21-28, DoubleTree Phoenix Tempe Hotel, Phoenix, Arizona.
- **Future Dates:** If interested in sponsoring a national convention in your area, contact Convention Chair.
- **Convention Programs:** Send special requests for workshop programs or interesting speakers to Convention Chair.
- **Convention Awards:** Send suggestions to Vickie Crider. *Email:* awards@avsa.org. Send contributions to AVSA Office.
- **Commercial Activities, Sales and Exhibits:** For information on convention entries or sales room, contact Kathy Bell. *Email:* commercials@avsa.org.

Join, renew and learn more at www.africanviolet.societyofamerica.org

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African Violet MAGAZINE

Volume 76 Number 4

ON THE COVER:
Rob's Vanilla Trail
Best Trailer
Hybridized by: R. Robinson
Grown by: Minh Bui
Semiminature trailer
Photo credit: Winston J. Goretsky



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African Violet Society of America

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Every attempt is made to keep articles technically correct. Since the growing of fine African violets can be achieved in many ways, the methods and opinions expressed by writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of AVSA.



President's Message

By Mary Corondan

Email: president@avsa.org

It was an honor to be elected as AVSA President in Atlanta, "Where it All Began." I appreciate the opportunity to serve AVSA and the membership as well as your confidence in my leadership abilities.

To commemorate returning to Atlanta, registrants received a copy of Volume 1, Number 1, of the *African Violet Magazine* dated 1947. It is 11 pages long and includes the original AVSA Bylaws, an article on cyclamen mites and an article in the National African Violet Show by C. J. Hudson, Jr. Another reflective publication included in the goodie bags was entitled, "1893 – 1993, 100 Years of African Violets," compiled by Holtkamp Greenhouses.

The excitement of the convention began with the opening ceremony. New introduction slides were compiled by Richard Craft. Hybrids were included from the United States and as far away as Russia and Ukraine. Violet lovers enjoy violet and other gesneriad photos.

The most attended banquet was the Thursday night Awards Banquet. Terri Post gave awards to numerous winners. Afterward, it was time for the viewing of the show! The show contained 263 exhibits of superb quality. There was an excellent representation of miniatures, semi-miniatures, standards, species, trailers, other gesneriads and stunning designs. The show-room was staged beautifully by Danny Tidwell, Show Chair. His valuable Co-Chair, Suzanne Roberts, assisted whenever and wherever needed. Randy G. Deutsch, Convention Chair, worked endlessly to keep the convention well

organized and ensure a great time was had by all. Candace Baldwin, Co-Chair, efficiently assisted him. Finally, none of this would have been possible without the dedication and ceaseless energy of Kathy Lahti.

One of the highlights is always the sales room. It was refreshing to see seven commercial growers with their tables overflowing with gorgeous plants.

At the Awards Banquet, Society Awards were presented to individuals who have gone above and beyond in their service to AVSA. The winners of the Article Contest were announced. Thank you for writing informative articles for the *African Violet Magazine*.

Welcome to the newly elected officers and board members. It will be a pleasure working with such a dedicated group of individuals. Many thanks are also due to the retiring board members for their years of service. The recognition would not be complete without mentioning our staff who were in attendance. Amy Carruth, Office Manager; Sophia Bennett, Editor; and Stephanie Travis, Office Secretary, gave excellent, cordial service at registration and the AVSA sales table.

The focus of the new year is to increase membership. We will have more information in the next issue. In the meantime, promote violets to members of younger generations, friends and family. Teach them how to care for these lovely plants. Share your passion for violets with others and be their inspiration.



Editor's Notes

By Sophia Bennett

Email: editor@avsa.org

My first convention was every bit as enjoyable as I thought it would be. It was such a treat to meet so many of the contributors to *African Violet Magazine*, as well as AVSA's leaders and members. Thank you to everyone who made me feel so welcome. I'm already looking forward to next year's convention in Phoenix, Arizona, from April 21 to 28.

We wrap up the convention with several articles in this issue. The show winners are listed on page 6. Recipients of this year's AVSA Society Awards are mentioned on page 13. Judges: Don't miss the update from the Judges Breakfast on page 45.

You can view candid photos from the convention, show and sale beginning on page 38. One of the highlights of convention is always the new introductions from around the world. You'll find photos of beautiful plants developed by hybridizers scattered throughout the magazine.

We aren't all about convention, of course. Bryan So has a delightful piece on page 30 about his success with *Streptocarpus goetzeanus*, which is notoriously difficult to coax into bloom. For those who want an easier project, why not try wick watering this summer? It's a very convenient way to keep plants healthy while you're traveling or managing an outdoor garden. Diane Riley has a primer on wick watering on page 34.

Finally, it's my pleasure to announce the winners of the 2022 Article Contest in this issue. We introduce you to our first-place winners on page 18. The second- and third-place winners will be profiled in future issues. We're also announcing another article contest that will run for the remainder of this year. If you have any ideas for an article, please reach out. It would be my pleasure to help you craft something you can be proud of, no matter your skill level as a writer or plant parent.

African Violet Magazine Article and Column Deadlines

- January/February issue: November 1
- March/April issue: January 1
- May/June issue: March 1
- July/August issue: May 1
- September/October issue: July 1
- November/December issue: September 1

We would love to hear from you! Please send articles or article ideas for the *AVM* to Sophia Bennett at editor@avsa.org.

Violets Most Wanted List

By Mary Thompson

Email: preservingviolets@avsa.org

Convention is over, and some of us have been to sales and added new African violets to our collections. Here is the full list of violets we are looking for. Can you help us out?

Admiral	His Promise	Rhapsodie Clementine
Alamo Haven	Irresistible	Rhapsodie Elfriede
Alamo Red	Kaneland Beauty	Rob's Fuddy Duddy
Aly's Key Lime Pie	Kira	Rose Bouquet
Amethyst	Little Emily	S. goetzeanus
Apache Warbonnet	Lonestar Snowstorm	Sailor Boy
Ask Neva	Mac's Misty Meadow	Seafoam
Bagdad	Maple Sugar	Serenity
Blue Boy	Mary Craig	Shan
Blue Heron	Mary D	Siberia Moon
Bryte Pixie	Masked Man	Something Special
Buckeye Blithe Spirit	Melodie Kimi	Southern Delight
Buckeye Crackerjack	Mermaid	Stephanie Croteau
Buckeye Eyestopper	Midget Bon Bon	Suncoast Calypso
Buckeye Freckles Galore	Midget Silverfox	Teen Craze
Buckeye Gee Whiz	Marshlands	Teen Dream
Commodore	Moonlight Mural	Teeny Weeny
Dallas Cowboys	Mosaïque	The Alps
Dancin' Trail	Neptune	The King
David Lee	Norseman	Tipt
Dorlene	#32	Tooch
Double Seafoam	Ocean Eyes	Viking
Emilie Savage	Old Dominion Sparkler	White Lady (P.Ruggeri)
Fantasy Florale	Optimara Crater Lake	White Madonna (Baker)
Firebird	Optimara Marilyn	White Madonna (Eyerdom)
Fisher's Leone	Optimara Marilyn II	Winsome
Fredette's Sugar Blues	Optimara Molokai	Young Man's Fancy
Friend Phyllis	Persian Princess	
Georgia Lover	Picasso	
Goluboi Dunai	Pink Beauty (F.Brockner)	
Granger's Wonderland	Plum Tip	
Happy Harold	Purple Crest	

Award-Winning Plants from the 2023 AVSA Convention

Email: showawards@avsa.org

■ **Best African Violet in Show**

Buckeye Nostalgia
Wayne Geeslin

■ **2nd Best African Violet in Show**

Picasso
Wayne Geeslin

■ **3rd Best African Violet in Show**

Rob's Boogie Woogie
Wayne Geeslin

■ **Best AVSA Collection-Standards (Amateur)**

Buckeye Nostalgia,
Cajun's Freckleface Kid,
Picasso
Wayne Geeslin

■ **2nd Best AVSA Collection-Standards (Amateur)**

Cajun's Hill Be Blue,
Pink Energy,
Buckeye Tea Party
Michael Jackson

■ **Best AVSA Collection-Minis and Semis (Amateur)**

Jazz Bouquet, Eternal Orbit,
Rob's Boogie Woogie
Wayne Geeslin

■ **2nd Best AVSA Collection-Minis and Semis (Amateur)**

Optimara Little Crystal,
Hunter's Chipmunk Cheeks,
Windsome
Kathy Lahti

■ **Best Holtkamp Collection (Amateur)**

Optimara Little Crystal,
Optimara Rose Quartz,
Optimara Little Ruby
Kathy Lahti

■ **Best Buckeye Collection**

Buckeye Nostalgia,
Buckeye Sentimental Reasons,
Buckeye Cranberry Sparkler
Wayne Geeslin

■ **2nd Best Buckeye Collection**

Buckeye Lady Love,
Buckeye Let's Roll,
Buckeye Cherry Topping
Karen Buchanan

■ **Best Russian/Ukrainian Collection**

LE-Rozhdenie Galactiki,
LE-Melodiia Dozhdia,
EK-Tanets Flamingo
Bob Long

■ **Best Cajun's Collection**

Cajun's Coujon,
Cajun's Freckleface Kid,
Cajun's Sundowners
Wayne Geeslin

■ **Best Standard African Violet**

Buckeye Nostalgia
Wayne Geeslin

■ **Best Miniature African Violet**

Orchard's Wonder Twin
Wayne Geeslin

■ **Best Semiminiature African Violet**

Rob's Boogie Woogie
Wayne Geeslin

■ **Best Trailer**

Rob's Vanilla Trail
Minh Bui

■ **Best Species African Violet**

S. 5b clone *grotei* Silvert
Bobbie Johannsen

■ **Best New Cultivar (Amateur)**

Best New Cultivar for
Amateur and Commercial
Sport of Mandan Dandy
(Handy Dandy)
Adrienne Rieck

■ **Best Vintage Violet**

Mary Craig
Wayne Geeslin

■ **2nd Best Other Gesneriad (Amateur)**

Primulina huangii
Randy Deutsch

■ **Best Other Gesneriad (Amateur)**

Sinningia helleri
Johnnie Berry

■ **Sweepstakes in Horticulture (Amateur)**

23 blue ribbons
Wayne Geeslin

■ **Sweepstakes Runner-Up in Horticulture (Amateur)**

18 blue ribbons
Bobbie Johannsen

■ **Best Design in Show**

“Golden Years”
Elmer Godeny

■ **2nd Best Design in Show**

“Awakening”
Candace Baldwin

■ **3rd Best Design in Show**

“Dish under 12””
Anna Lammersen

■ **Sweepstakes in Design**

7 blue ribbons
Becky McMeel

■ **Sweepstakes Runner-Up in Design**

6 blue ribbons
Tammy Dubois

■ **Best Interpretive Plant Arrangement**

“Golden Years”
Elmer Godeny

■ **Best Interpretive Flower Arrangement**

“Awakening”
Candace Baldwin

■ **Best Container Garden**

“Dish under 12””
Anna Lammersen

■ **Best in Show (Commercial)**

Optimara EverPrecious
Linda Rowe

■ **2nd Best in Show (Commercial)**

Fairy Trail
Jo Schrimsher

■ **3rd Best in Show (Commercial)**

Jolly Blue Bells
Jo Schrimsher

■ **Sweepstakes in Specimen Plants (Commercial)**

19 blue ribbons
Linda Rowe

■ **Runner Up in Sweepstakes in Specimen Plants (Commercial)**

6 blue ribbons
Jo Schrimsher

■ **Best Other Gesneriad (Commercial)**

Episcia ‘Kee Wee’
Paul Sorano

■ **Best Standard Collection (Commercial)**

Cajun’s Flamboyant Mistress,
Optimara EverPrecious,
Jere’s Roll Tide
Linda Rowe

■ **Best New Cultivar (Commercial)**

Sport of Yukako
Linda Rowe

■ **2nd Best New Cultivar (Commercial)**

Sport of Irish Sweeps
Linda Rowe

■ **Commercial Showcase Horticulture**

Jo Schrimsher

■ **Best Buckeye Cranberry Sparkler**

Wayne Geeslin

■ **Best Cajun’s Code Blue**

Karen Buchanan

■ **Best Jersey Snow Flakes**

Adrienne Rieck

■ **Judges Special Award**

Columnnea ‘Midget’
Paul Sorano

■ **Judges Special Award**

Mary Craig
Wayne Geeslin



Photo credit: Li Huang

Dew's Comet Tail

2023 AVSA Convention New Introduction

Hybridized by: L. Huang
Standard

Coming Events

Check the AVSA Events page (www.africanvioletocietyofamerica.org/events), search the local club on Facebook or contact the organizers listed below for the latest information on these events.

■ September 15-16 — Ohio

Ohio State African Violet Society
Convention, Show and Sale
Kingwood Center Gardens
50 Trimble Road, Mansfield, OH
Friday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday: 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Mel Grice: melsgrice@gmail.com

■ September 16 — California

Delta Gesneriad and African Violet Club
Show and Sale
Shepard Garden and Art Center
3330 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento, CA
Saturday: 1-4 p.m.; Sunday: 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
Beverly Moon: bev@mclure.org
Kathy Gunther: kathleenmgunther@gmail.com

■ September 16 — Texas

NASA Area African Violet Society
Show and Sale
Jimmy Walker Kemah Community Center
800 Harris Ave., Kemah, TX
Saturday: 1-5 p.m.
Dianne Duggan: dianne@dianneduggan.com

■ September 24 — Ontario

Toronto African Violet and Gesneriad Society
Fall Sale
Toronto Botanical Garden
777 Lawrence Ave. E, Toronto, ON
Saturday: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Doris Brownlie: jtbrownlie@idirect.com
Sue Smith: smith.sue2011@gmail.com
www.tavg.ca

■ October 7-8 — Minnesota

North Star African Violet Council
AVSA Judged Show and Plant Sale
Bachman's Floral Gift & Garden Heritage Room
6010 Lyndale Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN
Saturday: 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sunday: 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
Mary Kealy-Falk: mkealyfalk@aol.com

■ October 13-14 — Ohio

Columbus African Violet Society
“Culinary Violets: What’s in Your Pot?”
Show and Sale
Beechwood Christian Church
280 Morse Road, Columbus, OH
Friday: noon-5 p.m.; Saturday: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Donna Vogelpohn:
donna8452@columbus.rr.com
www.columbusafricanvioletociety.org

■ October 20-21 — Minnesota

African Violet Society of Minnesota
Fall Display and Sale
Northtown Mall
398 Northtown Drive, Blaine, MN
Friday: 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Saturday: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Randy G. Deutsch: rcjsch@prodigy.net

■ October 28 — Louisiana

Louisiana Lagniappe African Violet Society
“Violet Spooktacular” Sale
Baton Rouge Garden Center
7950 Independence Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA
Saturday: 1-5 p.m.
Susie Smith: susiesmith@live.com

■ November 3-4 — Maryland

Mid-Atlantic African Violet Society
“Violets in the Animal Kingdom”
31st Annual Convention
Delta Hotel by Marriott
245 Shawan Road, Hunt Valley, MD
Friday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday: 9 a.m.-4 p.m.



And the Winners Are ...

By Mary Corondan

Email: winners@avsa.org

■ African Violet Society of

Minnesota, MN — Winners:

- Best AVSA Standard Collection: Bob Serbin, Buffalo Hunt, King of Diamonds; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Jolly Magic, Jolly Ruby, Rebel's Meg; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Bristol's Party Girl'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Randy G. Deutsch.**
- 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Rhapsodie Stephanie, The Alps, Dolores' Ruth Elizabeth; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Beginner's Luck, Jolly Butterfly, Mac's Misty Meadow; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Cherry Chimes;
- Best Miniature: Jolly Disco, **Kathy Lahti.**
- Best Standard: Rebel's Rose Bud,

Gail Podany.

- Best Trailer: Milky Way Trail,
- Mary Kealy-Falk.**
- Best Species: *S. 5a* clone *grandifolius* No. 237, **Carol Semrau.**
- Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Jude Neumann.**

■ Albuquerque African Violet

Club, NM — Winners:

- Best AVSA Standard Collection: Moon Child, Carolina Elegant Affair, K's Freedom; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: N-Snezhnyi Georgin, Sierra Sunrise, Cajun's Lil Joy; Best Species: *S. 5b* clone *grotei*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Dena Brent.**
- Best in Show/Best Standard: Sweethearts Dance; Best Semiminiature: Jolly Jam; Best Miniature: Windsome; Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Pink Dreams', **Renee Bernard.**
- Best Design, **Debra Browitt.**
- Design Sweepstakes, **Kathleen Flanders.**

■ Capital District African Violet

Society, NY — Winners:

- Best in Show/Best Standard: Jersey Snowflakes; Best Species: *S. 5c1* clone *ionanthus*; Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia* 'California Sunset'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Margaret Califano.**
- Best Semiminiature: Jolly Fireball; Best Trailer: Milky Way Trail, **Esther Mason.**
- Best Miniature: Toronto Belle, **Heidi Dillenbeck.**
- Best Design, **Patti Freed.**
- Design Sweepstakes, **Victoria Schurr.**

■ Central California African Violet

Society, CA — Winners:

- Best in Show/Best Standard: Buckeye Cranberry Sparkler; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Diane Penders.**
- Best Semiminiature: Wesley's Bubblegum Cloud, **Joe Meyer.**
- Best Miniature: Optimara Little Azurite; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Renee Wilson.**

■ Copper State African Violet

Club, AZ — Winners:

- Best AVSA Species Collection: *S. 5h* clone *rupicolus*, *S. 5b* clone *grotei* Silver, *S. 5c2* clone *diplotrichus* Parker; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Candace Baldwin.**
- Best in Show/Best Trailer: Brazos Belle; Best Miniature: Harmony's Glacier; Best Species: *S. 5i* clone *velutinus* lite, **Shawn Edwards.**
- Best Standard: Steffano's Azure Diamonds, **Mark Romansky.**
- Best Semiminiature: Rob's Kitten Caboodle, **Richard Craft.**
- Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia* 'Flame', **Thelma Heinrich.**

■ **First African Violet Society of Denton, Alpha African Violet Society of Dallas, First Nighter African Violet Society of Dallas, TX — Winners:**

- Best AVSA Standard Collection: The Alps, Rodeo Polka, Rebel's Rose Bud; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Cool Blue, Hunter's Bunny Tracks, Rob's Outer Orbit; Best Species Collection: S. 5c1 clone *ionanthus*, S. 5b clone *grotei* Silvert, S. 8 clone *rupicolus*; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Rob's Outer Orbit; Best Standard: Rodeo Polka; Best Miniature: Morgan's Declan Duff; Best Species: S. 8 clone *rupicolus*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Mary Corondan**.
- 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Hunter's Whitetail Fawn, Jolly Bambino, Precious Red, **Ann Athey**.
- Best Trailer: Jersey Trail, **Sylvia Leeds**.
- Best Gesneriad: *Primulina drakei*; Design Sweepstakes, **Jill Reiss**.
- Best Design, **Suzanne Roberts**.

■ **Lakeshore African Violet Society, ON — Winners:**

- Best AVSA Standard Collection: Hunter's Slippery When Wet, Mark, K's Topsy Spritzer; Best Standard: Hunter's Slippery When Wet, **Bruce Williams**.
- Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Honey Blue Ace, Optimara Little Moonstone, Jolly Orchid; Best Gesneriad: *Columnea microphylla*, **Brett Flewelling**.
- 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Morgan's Barossa, Lakeshore Silver, Scamper; Best AVSA Species Collection: S. 5b clone *grotei* van Someren, S. 5c1 clone *ionanthus*, S.5h clone *rupicolus*; Best in Show/Best Trailer: Beacon Trail; Best Semiminiature: Morgan's Barossa; Best Miniature: Baby Jay; Best Species: S. 5b clone *grotei* van Someren; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Beverly Williams**.
- Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Ursula Eley**.

■ **Omaha African Violet and Gesneriad Society, NE — Winners:**

- Best AVSA Standard Collection: King of Diamonds, Marching Band, Bob Serbin; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Jolly Magic,

- Rebel's Meg, Shirl's Cranberry Smoothie; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Randy G. Deutsch**.
- 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Buckeye Cranberry Sparkler, Cajun's Zydeco, Cajun's Code Blue, **Tony Freedland**.
- 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Jolly Fun, Optimara Little Moonstone, Planet Kid; Best Trailer: Rob's Vanilla Trail; Best Species: S. S6 clone *brevipilosus*, **Krissa Bruck**.
- Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Cool Teen, **Terri Post**.
- Best Miniature: Optimara Little Moonstone, **Jennifer Vincent**.

■ **Sho-Me African Violet Club, MO — Winners:**

- Best AVSA Standard Collection: Miss Lily, Bob Serbin, Granger's Wonderland, **Wilma Wolverton**.
- Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Twinkle Pink, Precious Red, Optimara Little Pearl; Best in Show/Best Trailer: Pink Star Lou; Best Standard: Harmony's Little Stinker; Best Semiminiature: Cajun's Lil Joy; Best Miniature: Rob's Twinkle Pink; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Lynn Canning**.
- Best AVSA Species Collection: S. 5b clone *grotei* Silvert, S. 5c1 clone *ionanthus* House of Amani, S. 5b clone *confusa*; Best Species: S. 5c1 clone *ionanthus* House of Amani; Best Gesneriad: *Primulina tabacum*, **Jay Vantuyl**.
- Best Design, **Steve Scheuerman**.
- Design Sweepstakes, **Marian Schaaf**.

■ **Spring Branch African Violet Club, TX — Winners:**

- Best AVSA Standard Collection: Cajun's Freckleface Kid, Buckeye Cranberry Sparkler, Buckeye Nostalgia; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Fuddy Duddy, Jazz Bouquet, Cajun's Lil Sprinkles; Best in Show/Best Standard: Buckeye Cranberry Sparkler; Best Semiminiature: Jazz Bouquet, **Wayne Geeslin**.
- 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Buckeye Cherry Topping, Jere's Azure Sky, Cajun's Beautiful Oblivion; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Gundaroo, Rob's Vanilla Trail, Rob's Humpty Doo; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Neil's Circus', **Keitha Glaves**.

•Best AVSA Species Collection: S. 5b clone *grotei* Silvert, S. 5h clone *rupicolus*, S. 5c1 clone *tongwensis*; Best Species: S. 5c1 clone *tongwensis*; Horticulture Sweepstakes,

Dianne Duggan.

•Best Miniature: Lil Pink Wasp; Best Trailer: Pip Squeak, **Sam Cunningham.**

•Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Elmer Godeny.**

■ **Tampa African Violet Society, FL — Winners:**

•Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ma's Arctic Sky, Ma's Debutante, Ma's Pink Beetles; Best in Show/Best Standard: Ma's Pink Beetles; Best Semiminiature: California Sunset, **Sandi Solo.**

•2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Buckeye Cranberry Sparkler, Frozen in Time, Hunter's Tranquility; Best Trailer: LE-Erika; Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Pink Acajou'; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Mary Lou Harden.**

•Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Orchard's Wonder Twin, Orchard's Bumble Magnet, Shirl's Hawaiian Lei; Best Miniature: Orchard's Bumble Magnet, **Glenn Shelton.**

•Best Species: S. 5b clone *grotei* Silvert, **Jim Matula.**

■ **Toronto African Violet and Gesneriad Society, ON — Winners:**

•Best AVSA Standard Collection: Buckeye Torch Song, Mag's Lovely Rainbow, K's Topsy Spritzer, **Bruce Williams.**

•Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Imp's Amethyst Shards, Aca's Pink Pet, Jolly Orchid; Best AVSA Species Collection: S. 5c1 clone *ionanthus*, S. 5b clone *grotei* van Someren, S. 5h clone *rupicolus*; Best Species: S. 5b clone *grotei* van Someren; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Beverley Williams.**

•2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Crinkle Blue, Ness' Cranberry Swirl, Lakeshore Silver; Best Semiminiature: Cupid's Jewel, **Brett Flewelling.**

•Best in Show/Best Standard: Strawberry Sundae, **Lyudmyla Kashuba.**

•Best Miniature: Shirl's Red Sky; Best Trailer: Rob's Vanilla Trail, **Olga Vertlib.**

•Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Ursula Eley.**



Registration Report

By Joe Brun

Email: registration@avsa.org

■ **Horoko Endo — Chiba-shi, Mihama-ku, Japan**

Roku's Smiling Cinderella

•(11383) 03/25/2023 •(H. Endo)

•Single-semidouble white ruffled star/pink patches.

•Dark green, plain, quilted/red back.

•Standard

■ **Registration Change**

The following has been changed at the request of the hybridizer:

Carmen's Whispered Kiss

•(11381) Change from Standard to Semiminiature.

Honoring Our 2023 Outstanding AVSA Members

By Linda Hall

Email: societypawards@avsa.org

AVSA would like to thank all the people who submitted nominations for AVSA's Annual Society Awards. We had many qualified nominees, so the Awards Committee and Executive Committee had difficult decisions to make. We congratulate all the winners!

■ Hudson Award for Affiliate Leadership Recipient: Trudy Brekel

This year, the Hudson Award for Affiliate Leadership goes to a person who goes above and beyond for all the affiliates and the council she belongs to. It has been said that Trudy Brekel is the glue that holds her council together.

As a Senior Judge, she has secured a teacher and hosted a judging school in her home — even serving them all lunch!

Trudy is a member of the Rocky Mountain African Violet Council, Mile High African Violet and Gesneriad Society, and High Country Judges Workshop. She helped start and is a member of the Rocky Mountain Streptocarpus Society and South Metro Violet Bloomers. She has held meetings and programs in her home. She shares her violet treasures with members, who like to tour her growing area.

Trudy finds the time to serve AVSA on the Membership Committee, Publications Committee and Violet Preservation Committee. She chairs the Best Varieties and Honor Roll Committee.

The Rocky Mountain African Violet Council was pleased to nominate her. AVSA honors Trudy Brekel with the Hudson Award for Affiliate Leadership.

■ Meritorious Service Award

Recipient: Joe Bruns

In 2000, Joe Bruns received an Honorary One-Year Membership for writing an entries program to computerize and standardize entries in all levels of AVSA shows. What an outstanding achievement. If that wasn't enough, Lynn Lombard asked Joe if he could help Linda Golubski (now Linda Hall) computerize some segments of the show awards for our national convention. At this point in time, the Show Awards and Society Awards were one committee with one chair and everything was written or hand typed. This was a monumental task for the chair. Joe was able to write a program that computerized the process she needed. Thank you, Joe, from all the Show Awards chairs that have followed.

In 2004, Joe was given a Continuing Service Award for chairing the Master Varieties List and creating the computer program First Class, which he has maintained over the years.

In 2014, Joe received the Bronze Medal for his horticultural achievements for the many computer programs he has written and generously given to AVSA. This was a high honor and well deserved.

AVSA honors Joe Bruns with a Meritorious Service Award upon his retirement and thanks Joe for his many years of service.

■ Honorary Life Membership

Recipient: Susan Anderson

AVSA would like to present to Susan Anderson an Honorary Life Membership for serving as

AVSA President from 2021 to 2023. Susan has been a member of AVSA since 1997. In 2016, she co-founded Copper State African Violet Club. She remains a member of the club. She has been AVSA's 3rd Vice President, 2nd Vice President, 1st Vice President and served as a Director from 2008 to 2010.

Susan is a Senior Judge. She chairs the Tally Time Committee and serves on the Fundraising Committee, Publications Committee and Shows and Judges Committee. She was also the Convention/Show Co-Chair of the 2020 Virtual Violet Convention. Without her foresight and perseverance, that convention would not have taken place.

AVSA thanks Susan Anderson for her dedication to AVSA and her vision for the society's future by awarding her an Honorary Life Membership.

■ Continuing Service Award Recipient: Mary Lou Harden

AVSA is pleased to present a Continuing Service Award to Mary Lou Harden for her many, many years as Bylaws Committee Chair. She is a member of the Florida State Association of Parliamentarians, which keeps her current on parliamentary procedures.

Mary Lou is a life member of AVSA, a Senior Judge and served as a Director from 2014 to 2016. She is also a member of the Fundraising Committee. In 1998, she received an Honorary One-Year Membership for serving as the Convention Chair for the 1997 St. Pete Beach Convention.

Locally, Mary Lou is member of the Tampa African Violet Society, African Violet Council of Florida and is a life member of the Regional Council - Dixie African Violet Society.

AVSA thanks Mary Lou Harden for her years of service and dedication to the society.

■ Continuing Service Award Recipient: Dr. Jeff Smith

In 1992, Dr. Jeff Smith won a Bronze Medal from AVSA for his scientific achievement in his constant search of new violets, emphasizing the African violet species. He traveled around the country speaking and sharing species leaves.

In 2009, Jeff received a Meritorious Service Award for his many years of writing a column for *African Violet Magazine* entitled "In Search of New Violets." This award was also for helping us all understand the new classification of African violet species that took place that year. How could we understand that our beloved African violet was now a subspecies of a *Streptocarpus*! Jeff did his best to explain all the scientific reasoning behind it.

In 2011, Jeff received an Honorary One-Year Membership for his then 18 years of writing his column "In Search of New Violets."

Now, it is 2023, and AVSA gratefully acknowledges and thanks Jeff for 30 years of continuous "In Search of New Violets" columns for the *AVM*. That translates into six deadlines per year for 30 years. That is commitment! Thank you for your research and dedication to AVSA.

■ Honorary One-Year Membership Recipient: Kathy Bell

AVSA would like to thank Kathy Bell for serving as AVSA's Convention Co-Chair in Little Rock, Arkansas, in 2022. She is an Advanced Judge and has served AVSA as the Commercial Committee Chair since 2021.

Kathy served as a Director from 2007 to 2009 and chaired the Membership and Promotion Committee from 2009 to 2013. She also received Honorary One-Year Memberships in 2005 for serving as the 2004 Convention Chair in Tucson, Arizona, and in 2017 for serving as the 2016 Convention Show Chair in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

She is a member of the Tucson African Violet Society and joined AVSA in 1991.

AVSA thanks Kathy Bell for serving as the 2022 Convention Co-Chair.

■ Honorary One-Year Membership
Recipient: Alice Brown

AVSA is pleased to present to Alice Brown an Honorary One-Year Membership for serving as the 2022 Convention Show Co-Chair for the Little Rock, Arkansas, convention, "Violets Go Hog Wild in Arkansas." She also served as the local treasurer for the convention.

Locally, Alice belongs to the Central Arkansas African Violet Society and has served in all offices. She is also a member of the orchid club and often wins best in show with her gorgeous trailers.

AVSA thanks Alice Brown for such a beautiful and well-organized show.

■ Honorary One-Year Membership
Recipient: Susan Hill

AVSA would like to present an Honorary One-Year Membership to Susan Hill for being the 2022 Convention Show Co-Chair in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Susan served AVSA as a Director from 2014 to 2016 and as Society Awards Chair from 2017 to 2019. She is a Senior Judge. Susan also received an Honorary One-Year Membership in 2014 for serving as the Show Chair for the 2013 Austin convention.

Locally, Susan is a member of the the African Violet Society of Greater Tulsa and Lone Star African Violet Council.

AVSA thanks Susan Hill for her contributions to the 2022 Little Rock, Arkansas, convention show.

■ Honorary One-Year Membership
Recipient: Linda Rowe

This year, AVSA would like to honor one of its long-time Commercial Members with an Honorary One-Year Membership. Linda Rowe has been the owner of Bloomin' Jungle in Red Creek, New York, for over 40 years, though she did relocate her business to Tennessee for a few years.

She has hybridized some *Streptocarpus* and African violets over the years. Linda grows between 2,000 to 3,000 different varieties of plants and carries an inventory of at least double that. That's a lot of plants!

Locally, she is a member of the Syracuse African Violet Society.

When gathering information about Linda, the one word that popped up from everyone is that Linda is a very generous person. When people, individuals and commercials alike have lost collections for whatever reason, she has stepped in and given them plants to get started again.

AVSA is proud to present to Linda Rowe an Honorary One-Year Membership for her lengthy commercial services and generosity to the African violet community.

■ Honorary One-Year Membership
Recipient: Danny Tidwell

An Honorary One-Year Membership is presented to Danny Tidwell for his service as Convention Co-Chair for "Violets Go Hog Wild in Arkansas," which took place in Little Rock.

Danny is a Senior Judge and is currently serving AVSA as a Director. He has been a member of AVSA and the Central Arkansas African Violet Society for over 25 years, joining both at the same time. He is also a member of Lone Star African Violet Council.

Many thanks to Danny Tidwell for serving AVSA as Convention Chair in 2022.

■ **Honorary One-Year Membership**

Recipient: Barb Werness

AVSA wants to acknowledge and honor Barb Werness with an Honorary One-Year Membership for serving as a judging school teacher for many years and as the Senior Judge's examiner.

Barb has been a Master Judge since 2021. She teaches the Master Judge Continuing Education course along with the many judging schools she teaches annually. She also taught the judging school at the 2022 convention in Little Rock.

She served as an AVSA Director from 2008 to 2010 and is a current member of the Shows and Judges Committee. Barb did the leaf and blossom drawings for the 2008 edition of the "Growing to Show" book. She was on the 2022 Judge's Handbook Revision Committee.

Barb has been a member of AVSA and the African Violet Society of Minnesota since 1992. She is also a member of the North Star African Violet Council and the Judges Council of Minnesota.

AVSA honors Barb Werness with an Honorary One-Year Membership for all her service to AVSA.

Nominate a Member for the Hudson Award for Affiliate Leadership

By Linda Hall

Email: societyawards@avsa.org

Is there someone in your local African violet club who takes on every duty asked of them and goes above and beyond? We want to honor a special club member with the Hudson Award for Affiliate Leadership. AVSA presents this award annually at the national convention to one very deserving

person. Please take the time to complete a nomination form, which can be found on the AVSA website, www.africanvioletsocietyofamerica.org. If you have any questions or need assistance completing the form, please contact Linda Hall at societyawards@avsa.org or (816) 550-4061.

2023 *African Violet Magazine* Article Contest

By Sophia Bennett

Email: editor@avsa.org

AVSA's Publications Committee is reopening the Article Contest to generate new content for *African Violet Magazine*. Prizes will once again be awarded to six deserving winners.

The Article Contest will accept submissions between July 1 and December 31, 2023. Anyone is welcome to send one or more articles relevant to growing, showing or hybridizing African violets. Entries will be accepted in two categories: beginner/intermediate, which are articles designed to offer more basic tips, and advanced, which are pieces with a more scientific take on topics. New this year: We are also encouraging writers to submit beginner/intermediate articles with ideas for club programs or activities.

Articles should be between 500 and 2,000 words. Please include pictures or illustrations if possible. Photos and other artwork must be high resolution (at least 300 dpi).

All submissions will be edited as needed. Edits will be discussed with the writer, and authors will have a chance to review articles before they are published. We strongly encourage even beginning writers or people who don't consider themselves strong writers to submit articles. If you have good information to share, we are happy to help you craft a piece that you are proud of. Articles will be judged on the quality of the finished piece, not the initial submission.

Keep in mind that *AVM* strives to provide African violet enthusiasts with information-rich stories they can use as they are growing and showing plants and designs. AVSA reserves the right not to publish any articles it deems unfit for the magazine. Articles that share personal stories about one person's passion or connection to African violets will likely be rejected.

Articles will run in *AVM* beginning with the September/October 2023 issue and ending with the March/April 2024 issue. Writers must confirm that their work is original. AVSA retains the copyright on all articles published in the magazine, so authors must agree not to share their published article on any form of social media or other online platform.

A panel of five judges will review the articles and pick a first-, second- and third-place winner in each category. Pieces will be judged on considerations such as the quality of the information shared, enjoyable and relatable storytelling, and suitability of the story for the publication. Contest winners will be announced at the 2024 AVSA National Convention and in the July/August 2024 issue of *AVM*.

Email submissions and questions about the 2023 Article Contest to Sophia Bennett at editor@avsa.org. Articles can also be mailed to the AVSA office.

Winners of the 2022 Article Contest

By Sophia Bennett

Email: editor@avsa.org

Many thanks to everyone who entered the 2022 *African Violet Magazine* Article Contest. Seven authors wrote a total of 12 articles. The winners are listed below. Congratulations to these talented contributors. Get to know the contest winners in the next few issues.

The Article Contest will continue for the remainder of this year. See page 17 for more details.

Advanced Category

1st Place: "Fusarium" by Cindy Fortin

2nd Place: "How a PAR Meter Helped Me Save My African Violets" by Roy Roberts

3rd Place: "Experimenting with Reservoir pH" by Jennifer Vincent

Beginner/Intermediate Category

1st Place: "Wax and Wane" by Sharon Rosenzweig

2nd Place: "Having Trouble with Your Wicks?" by Karyn Cichochi

3rd Place (tie): "The Benefits of Condiment Cups" by Paul Kilroy

3rd Place (tie): "My Experiment with LECA" by Peg Crawford

Meet the Article Contest Winners

By Sophia Bennett

Email: editor@avsa.org

1st Place, Advanced

Winner: Cindy Fortin

My name is Cindy Fortin and I have been growing African Violets for 10 years or so thanks to my mom, who gifted me one at Easter. I belong to AVSA, the Granite State African

Violet Club, Bay State African Violet Society and All Seasons African Violet Club. I think belonging to clubs helps with growing and showing and making great violet friends. Thankfully, hubby is very understanding of my violet hobby. We live in New Hampshire

with our pug Ginger, our cat Tesla, two fainting goats and three pigs.

1st Place, Beginner/Intermediate

Winner: Sharon Rosenzweig

I've been growing African violets for more than 50 years. I received my first African violet in 1972 as a house warming gift from my cousin, who taught me all about growing and propagating.

After moving from New York to Massachusetts in 1993, I joined All Seasons (my local African violet club), Bay State African Violet Society (BSAVS) and AVSA. Over the course of the next 30 years, I held many offices in BSAVS including President, Vice President, Secretary and Show Chair. I'm currently Vice President.

I earned one Best in Show award with Ness' Crinkle Blue and Best Design awards in several BSAVS shows over the years. In addition, I grow begonias and other gesneriads. I have held many offices, including President and Convention Chair of the Buxton Begonia Society and the New England Gesneriad Society.

I opened an online store in 2005, The Planter Depot, where I sold Oyama Planters and a variety of growing supplies. Since closing the store in 2016, I have spent my time caring for my plants, doing programs at local nurseries and organizations, and writing articles for the AVM and the YE Bay Stater, our local club newsletter. I love doing it all!



Photo credit: Joan Baker

Rivermist Starstruck

**2023 AVSA Convention
New Introduction**

Hybridized by: J. Baker
Standard

TechWeb Tips: Optimal Browser for Viewing the AVSA Website

By Jill Jensen

Email: jjensen4avs@gmail.com

Many of us may remember the television advertisements for V8, where someone has an “aha!” moment (with a hollow coconut-sounding head smack) and the memorable tagline follows, “Could’ve had a V8!” This TechWeb tip won’t give you a smack in the head, but hopefully it will give you an aha moment when you use the AVSA website.

The AVSA Website and WordPress

The AVSA website is built on the WordPress platform, one of the most common tools for building websites today. WordPress does not require sophisticated coding, so AVSA volunteers without programming knowledge can build and update it. The platform allows website builders to employ various plugins (software components) and templates that provide additional functionality to the website.

WordPress and most plugins work better on some browsers than others. If you are having issues with the AVSA website, the problem could be related to the web browser you are using.

What is a Web Browser?

Think of a bus, train or other form of public transportation. A web browser is similar because it takes you where you want to go on the internet when you enter a search into the browser’s search tool. A browser finds and retrieves information from the internet so you can see it displayed on your desktop computer, laptop or smartphone.

Some Web Browsers Play Better with WordPress than Others

According to WordPress, websites work better when you use certain browsers. Since AVSA’s website is built using WordPress, to minimize glitches as you surf the site, you should use one of their recommended browsers: Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, Safari, Opera or Microsoft Edge. Any of these browsers will work well with a WordPress-based website if the browser you are using is the most up-to-date version.

What Browser are You Using Now?

On most devices, you can determine the browser you are using by going to your device’s settings and checking what browser has been selected as your default browser.

Don’t Have a Recommended Browser?

Do an internet search, download and install one of the ones listed above. Remember to go back to your device’s settings and make it your default browser.

Have One of the Recommended Browsers?

If you do have one of the recommended browsers, good for you! However, make sure you’re always using the most up-to-date version of any browser when surfing the internet.

Watch for additional TechWeb Tips in future issues of the *AVM*.



Photo credit: Sam Cunningham

Eyes Like Liz

2023 AVSA Convention New Introduction

Hybridized by: S. Cunningham

Semiminiature



AVSA Affiliate Update

By Jeri Anderson

Email: affiliate@avsa.org

Summer is here and a lot of us are thinking about vacation. While on vacation, do you think about violet club activities? Are you the kind of person who searches the beach for an interesting piece of driftwood to use in a design? Do you plan on visiting one of our violet hybridizers' greenhouses or even making this the highlight of your vacation? Are you a "violet vacationer"?

Does your club shut down for the summer months? If so, I'd like you to consider having at least one summer meeting just to keep all members involved. The summer meetings should be something fun with no business. Have a leaf potting party, leaf exchange day or trip to a botanical garden. There are lots of ideas; just get together.

Something has been brought to my attention about our Events display pages on the AVSA website that not everyone seems to know. For any given event, if you place your cursor on the title of that event, you will notice it becomes underlined. When you click on the title, the event will open up into a much easier format to read. Plus, you will now see a Google map to the event location.

To enter your event information on the AVSA website, go to www.africanvioletsofamerica.org and click on Participate. Click on Events and you will see the area that says, "Click here to add your event." Fill out the form. When done, the information is sent directly to the Affiliate Chair and the *AVM* Editor, Sophia Bennett.

Consider having at least one summer meeting just to keep all members involved.

We have members working to start a club:

- Kim Icenhower: Fort Bend, TX;
Email: kim@icenhower.com
- Susan Babyk: Chicago, IL;
Email: sukazu17@gmail.com

Hopefully, someone will be interested in joining a club in one of these areas.

Don't forget: We are still searching for interesting program ideas to place on our AVSA website in the near future. Please send your program ideas to Cristy Boothe at cristybooth@hotmail.com.

Is your club information up to date? If not please take the time to update the information. To update your club information, from the Home page, place your cursor on the Participate button and select Find an Affiliate Club from the dropdown menu. On the top portion of the Affiliate page, click on the Update Affiliate Club Information button. The Affiliate Update form will open for you to input your club's information.



In Search of New Violets

By Dr. Jeff Smith

Email: jsmith4@bsu.edu

A recent column discussed fasciation in African violets. A reader wrote in and shared an interesting story about an attempt to save a clone of the species known as Sigi Falls. The original plant had fasciated and all attempts to capture a “normal” plant through leaf cuttings and suckers had failed. In desperation, leaf cuttings were made that cut the leaf blade in two and the outer piece (the part lacking the petiole) was put down for rooting. Although a number of the cuttings rotted, a few rooted and put up normal plantlets that didn’t have fasciation.

While African violets can often be reproduced from pieces of leaves, most growers don’t use this method except in an emergency, such as the loss of the petiole on the leaf of an important or valuable cultivar. If you have had a valuable plant fasciate and want to recapture a normal growing plant, using the outer half of a leaf blade as the propagation material might be worth a try. In these half-leaf cuttings, the new plantlet is started from cells near the leaf veins, a different cell location than the epidermis of the petiole that produces plantlets in regular leaf cuttings. The vein tissue may well have escaped the mutations in a fasciation event and produce normal babies.

Q: I’ve seen an increase on social media in the number of leaf chimera cultivars. Is there any reason behind the increase of these plants?

A: To the best of my knowledge, a leaf chimera is a genetic mistake that is found rather than

created. That is, leaf chimeras are a chance accident of nature and not a genetic trait that can be bred into plants. I suspect that leaf chimeras have been with us for many years but were often discarded because they were different from the original cultivar. Now that leaf chimeras have been recognized, reproduced and sold (often for a substantial price), more growers are recognizing leaf chimeras and trying to stabilize the mutation. The weird little plant that showed up in the cutting tray is getting a second look instead of being tossed into the compost bin.

I’ve been watching some of the posts on social media regarding leaf chimeras. The most recent postings have shown combinations of leaf chimera on other variegation types such as Tommie Lou and crown variegations. Some of the patterns are very interesting and attractive. However, I do hope that the growers will continue to hold high standards on the stability of these plants before making them available to the public.

Q: Some African violets have different requirements for light. Are there also cultivars that have different genetic requirements for fertilizer?

A: Interesting question. I haven’t seen any studies on this question in African violets, although fertilizer requirements are sometimes studied in food crops and a few genetic variations have been found. Given the close relationship between the wild species plants, I doubt that there has been natural selection

for fertilizer requirements in African violets. The habitats of the species are too similar to have resulted in selection for different fertilizers. There are temperature requirement differences between the species that reflect selection for elevation differences, but not nutrient differences.

Having said this, I can imagine that many growers can describe the fertilizer requirements for their show plants. They know that the needs of a standard cultivar are different from those of a miniature or trailer. However, I suspect that while the fertilizer requirements are the same (all plants use the same elements, such as nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium), the quantity of the elements can vary depending on the plant's stage of growth. For example, most growers use a higher nitrogen number when they want vegetative growth and switch to a higher phosphorus number for flowers. The change in fertilizer doesn't reflect a change in the plant's genetics, but a change in the expression of the traits in the plant during vegetative growth compared to flowering.

Perhaps I have missed the intent of your question, but any genetic differences in the fertilizer requirements of African violet cultivars is going to be subtle. It would take very careful scientific experiments to discover these differences. Even if genetic differences for fertilizer are discovered, it's unlikely this will change the way plants are grown by the average hobbyist or even in the larger trade industry.

Q: A seedling in one of my crosses has white flowers with checkmarks of color on the margins where the petals join. However, the flower looks like it will be a single dropper. What would you suggest to get this trait on sticktite flowers and perhaps also intensify the markings?

A: Sorry to not show the picture of the flower that was sent in with the question, but the hybridizer considers this a work in progress and asked that the picture not be shared at this time.

Some of the new combinations of leaf chimera patterns are very interesting and attractive. I do hope growers will continue to hold high standards on the stability of these plants before making them available.

First, I would suggest trying to grow the plant through several bloom cycles to make sure that the markings are stable, especially if grown under different temperatures. Some flower markings in African violets are temperature dependent (the thumbprint pattern being a good example). It may be that the intensity of the markings will increase naturally if the plant is grown under a different temperature. This will help you understand the stability of your flower pattern.

Second, single dropping is a recessive trait and should be easy to correct. Try crossing the plant to a plant with semidouble or sticktight single flowers. These flower types are genetic dominants and should correct a single dropping flower type. To conserve your markings, try crossing to a white or pale-pink-colored flower, which should allow your markings to show through. If the markings disappear in the F1 generation, try a back-cross of one of the F1 seedlings to the plant with the markings. You should have a good chance of conserving the markings and getting them on a non-dropping single or semidouble flower.

I noticed that your seedling has pansy-shaped flowers. You might try introducing star-shaped flowers into the mix. While star-shaped flowers are a genetic recessive to pansy shaped, many star-shaped flowers are better about not dropping. Allowing all five stamens to be produced instead of the usual two seems to give the petals a better chance to stick.

In summary, check the stability of your color markings through several bloom cycles and growing temperatures, then cross with a star-shaped semidouble with white or light-pink-colored flowers. Back-cross to the original parent or self-pollinate your best F1 seedling to get all of the traits you want combined into the same plant. Good luck with your project.

Q: Can flower-edge patterns be put on wasp-shaped flowers?

A: Yes, several of the new wasp-shaped flowers released recently have edge patterns. One of

the most striking is a flower with the raspberry edge pattern. The challenge in combining patterns on wasp flowers is that their flowers are naturally smaller; there isn't much petal area available to show a pattern. Wasp-shaped flowers are a genetic dominant and easy to express in one generation. Edge traits such as raspberry edges, Geneva edges or green edges are genetic dominants and should be easy to put on wasp-shaped blooms.

A cross of a plant
with wasp-shaped
flowers with a
plant that has
edged flowers
should produce the
combination in a
single generation.

A cross of a plant with wasp-shaped flowers with a plant that has edged flowers should produce the combination in a single generation. Using plants with large flowers will help produce seedlings with larger flowers for a clearer expression of the combined traits. I'm fond of the wasp-flowered plants and have enjoyed the attention hybridizers have been giving this trait the past few years.



Photo credit: Larisa Sheveleva

LV-Marinochka

**2023 AVSA Convention
New Introduction**

Hybridized by: L. Sheveleva
Semiminiature



Photo credit: Marina Totieva

MT-Peski Vremeni

**2023 AVSA Convention
New Introduction**

Hybridized by: M. Totieva
Standard



Photo credit: David Harris

***Sinningia* 'Ozark Lavender Lace'**

2023 AVSA Convention New Introduction

Hybridized by: D. Harris



Family Portrait: *Petrocosmea rotundifolia*

By Mel Grice

Email: melsgrice@gmail.com

Petrocosmea rotundifolia is one of my favorite gesneriads and well worth growing. Many of you have been growing it for years with a different name on the label — *Petrocosmea minor*. Botanists have determined that

another plant with very different characteristics should be named *Petrocosmea minor* and what we have been growing is more aptly called *Petrocosmea rotundifolia*. One look at the shiny, round, green leaves in the photo



Photo credit: Pierre Laforest, Montreal, Canada.

makes it evident that this is a good name for this species. One or two purple flowers are suspended above long pedicels. They remind me of fluttering butterflies. The upper two lobes of the flowers are fused together above a white throat.

Petrocosmea is a small genus of rosette-growing gesneriads from China and east Asia. The name *Petrocosmea* is derived from the Greek words for “pretty” and “rock.” They are found growing at higher elevations on shaded limestone rocks. As a result, they prefer cooler temperatures and will grow well in a cool basement, on a windowsill or under artificial lights. They are slow growing and may take several years to grow into a mature plant.

Petrocosmea prefer a well-draining, light soil mixture placed in shallow pan pots. They don’t like their roots disturbed very often, so infrequent repotting seems to be the rule for success. I always mold pot them by filling

the next sized pot with new soil, creating a hole the exact size as the old pot, then dropping the plant into that molded hole. This way, the root ball is undisturbed and the plant can adapt more easily to the larger pot. Moist or humid air seems to help with flowering, which usually occurs in late winter or early spring, so I grow them under a clear dome.

Because of the symmetrical way the foliage grows, *Petrocosmea* was a very popular genus to be shown as a non-blooming plant for several years. The Gesneriad Society has decided that when petrocosmea plants are not in bloom, they do not earn a high score for classes grown for ornamental qualities other than bloom. They are basically a plain green plant that is out of bloom. Think of a well-grown African violet that is not blooming. It would need some pizzazz factor to make up for its lack of bloom and merit a good score. We hold flower shows, not “plain green plants that are out of bloom” shows.



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AVSA is non-profit, educational organization dedicated to helping African violet enthusiasts enjoy these beautiful plants.

2023 Article Contest—

S. goetzeanus Blooms for California Man

By Bryan So

Email: bryanso@gmail.com

Around 1900, Professor Adolf Engler sent a young botanist, Walther Goetze, to collect interesting specimens from Africa. Between 1,300 to 2,000 meters in the mountains of Uluguru, in the primeval forest of the Lukwangule Plateau, Goetze found a most spectacular wild flower. The natives call it Mauhiambulugi. Sadly, Mr. Goetze died of a tropical disease shortly after discovering this plant. Fortunately, he took detailed notes and herbarium specimens and managed to send them back to Professor Engler in Berlin (see Harvey Cox and Evan Roberts, “Species Nomenclature of the African Violet Continued,” *African Violet Magazine*, vol. 4, no. 3, 1951).

Mauhiambulugi happens to be an African violet species. In honor of Walther Goetze, it is now named *Streptocarpus goetzeanus* (plural *goetzeana*). This species is truly the most spectacular saintpaulia species in cultivation. While all other species have plain light to dark purple colors, *S. goetzeanus* is bicolor. The three lower petals are pure snow white, while the upper two petals are purple with a faint paintbrush-like pattern. It is a miniature trailer with dark, round, thick and hairy foliage that naturally grows into a perfectly spherical ball.

S. goetzeanus is rarely seen in cultivation because there is an impression that it is extremely difficult to grow and bloom. Reinhild Raistrick wrote in “African Violets: In Search of the Wild Violets,” “This is possibly the most striking of all the *Saintpaulia* species. ... Due to its particular growing conditions in the

wild, it is very difficult to grow *ex situ* and bring into flower, and is therefore not seen in collections.”

Fortunately, it is seen in collections. I am going to document how I managed to make it bloom at my home and hopefully encourage more enthusiasts to cultivate this species.

Clues

I was able to find several valuable examples of blooming *S. goetzeana* in the *African Violet Magazine*. An *S. goetzeanus* photograph was featured on the cover of *AVM*, March 1972, accompanied by an article by Irene Hazeltine, “*S. goetzeana* Blooms for California Woman.” It is believed that was the very first time this species had ever bloomed in the USA. Hazeltine did not tell us about her growing conditions except we know her location was Santa Cruz, California, which is fairly close to where I live.

The next time we see it bloom is in *AVM* September 1980, in “My *S. goetzeana* Blooms at Last” by Jessie Crisafulli from Belchertown, Massachusetts. The title clearly portrays the difficulty required for this species to bloom. Crisafulli’s dedication is fascinating to read. She gave out 30 to 35 plants to friends. She kept two dozen or so for herself, placing them in various locations, from the cellar to a sunporch, testing out the best condition for them to flourish. She writes, “This past winter we kept the thermostat set at 60 degrees all day and night ... but the large expanse of windows on three sides kept the

porch quite cool with a temperature fluctuation of 45 to 50 degrees at night to 80 to 85 degrees during the day.” Two of her plants successfully bloomed in 1980.

Crisafulli’s two plants continued to bloom yearly, as she reported in *AVM* November 1981 and September 1982. The latter article, “*Saintpaulia Goetzeana* Duet Becomes A Trio,” offers another important clue: “[A] third plant had been in the cellar under fluorescent lights, for a few years, in an attempt to find out if it would bloom there — but nary a bud. I finally brought it upstairs and placed it in the sunporch, where the changing temperatures and varying day lengths were apparently what *Saintpaulia goetzeana* needs to bloom.”

It would take almost three decades to see another full-length article. Kenji Hirose reported in *AVM* September 2009, “Growing and Flowering *Saintpaulia goetzeana*,” “The flowering of *Saintpaulia goetzeana* was so unusual that it was reported on television and in the newspapers.” Then he described the growing conditions in great detail. Unfortunately, they were stringent greenhouse conditions that mimic the natural environment of the Uluguru Mountains district but are rather impractical to reproduce at home. Hirose has the advantage of working in Japan’s Hyogo Prefectural Flower Center.

Growing Conditions

After reading up about *S. goetzeanus*, I was very interested to give it a try because I live in the San Francisco Bay Area and it is cool and foggy in the winter. It’s usually between 40 to 50 degrees F but never freezing. I thought it might be possible for me to put the plants in an outdoor, shaded location during the winter so they could get the necessary chill. I planned on keeping them cool using ice packs during the summer months.

I am going to document how I manage to make it bloom at my home and hopefully encourage more enthusiasts to cultivate this species.

The following table shows our temperatures over the last year:

Year	Month	Low	High
2022	5	42	88
	6	50	96
	7	55	84
	8	57	88
	9	57	106
	10	41	88
2023	11	37	68
	12	37	62
	1	36	67
	2	37	65
	3	37	68
	4	41	73
	5	49	83

From December to March, I put two *S. goetzeana* outside my north-facing front entrance for them to experience the cold. They were placed in an area with no direct sunlight ever and received no artificial lighting.

I have put a third just inside the front door on a windowsill. This area is usually 10 degrees or so warmer than the outdoor temperature in winter but is cooler than the outside in summer. However, it is very dimly lit, so I put the plant under an LED light for 12 hours a day. The day length in northern California is rather short in winter (about 9 1/2 hours in December), but the outdoor plants don't seem to suffer at all.

All three developed buds in late February. The buds matured rather slowly and finally opened up in the beginning of May.

Advice

You must watch out for high temperatures. If it gets above 80 F, move the plants back indoors, place them inside paper boxes (those meal kit boxes with insulated linings are perfect) and put a reusable ice pack in each. Change the ice packs daily or more often to bring the temperature down to 55 to 75 F. (Tip: Search for student thermometers online. A set of 10 is only \$12). You should also make sure it is not freezing if you decide to grow outdoors).

To mimic the native foggy conditions, all of the plants were placed under GrowAway plastic garden domes with the air holes open.

The soil mix I use is very similar to the general recommendation with more perlite added. I use approximately one part commercial African violet mix, one part coarse vermiculite and four parts perlite. I water from the top and the soil mix should be so well-drained that the water should run out almost instantaneously. The pots I use are simply those plastic drinking cups from the supermarket (5 ounces in the beginning and moving up to 9 ounces).

I water only when the pots feel light to me — once a week at most. Due to the way the foliage grows (a dense ball), it's unavoidable

getting some leaves wet. The leaves don't seem to be affected by the water at all. Of course, do try to dry them off with a clean tissue.

Concerning fertilization, from what I have read, *S. goetzeanus* needs very little to no plant food. I have been using Schultz 8-14-9 but diluted to half the strength (while Crisafulli used 15-30-15 full strength constantly). I also use plain water every few cycles. Make sure the water temperature is close to the soil temperature, which can be rather cold in wintertime.

Propagation

Propagation is extremely easy. While I've had problems propagating some hybrids from leaves occasionally, never have I failed to propagate an *S. goetzeanus*. I have put down leaves and they grew babies in a few months. I have cut branches off and they rooted quickly. Just use the same soil mix and keep them bagged. And remember to do this in winter. I have actually seen leaves accidentally fall from the main plant, and they rooted and grew babies!

In my experience, *S. goetzeanus* is very hardy. The plants I placed outdoors got blown to the ground a few times by strong winds. One of them must have caught something because the leaves started to get mushy one by one. I had to cut off more than half of the leaves over a month or two. But as of this moment, it is back to health, despite looking a bit skinny. Still blooming!

Fun Facts

First, *S. goetzeanus* is a real species. By that, I mean it's not like *S. confusa*, which is a subspecies of *S. ionanthus*, or *S. orbicularis*, another subspecies of *S. ionanthus*. No offense to *confusa* and *orbicularis* ... I have them and love them. But it's prestigious to own a real species, an "S 9," not an "S 5c2. cl. something"!

If that's not enough to convince you, according to Dr. Jeff Smith, there is DNA evidence that shows *S. goetzeanus* is the grand ancestor of all African violet species. It would be a great shame if it goes extinct. If you want to learn more about this species and many other unusual species from the cold regions, please seek out Smith's very informative article

"Growing the 'Cool' Species," *AVM* March/April 1996.

Finally, I will be doing some hybridization experiments under the guidance of Smith. If anything interesting comes out of them, I will give an update.



S. goetzeanus before blooming. All photos by Larry Chan.



S. goetzeanus in bloom.

Wick Watering IOI

By Diane Riley

Email: avdriley@yahoo.com

Wick watering is a method of constant watering. The basic components are the pot, the wick, a reservoir of water and an African violet potting mix with ample coarse perlite.

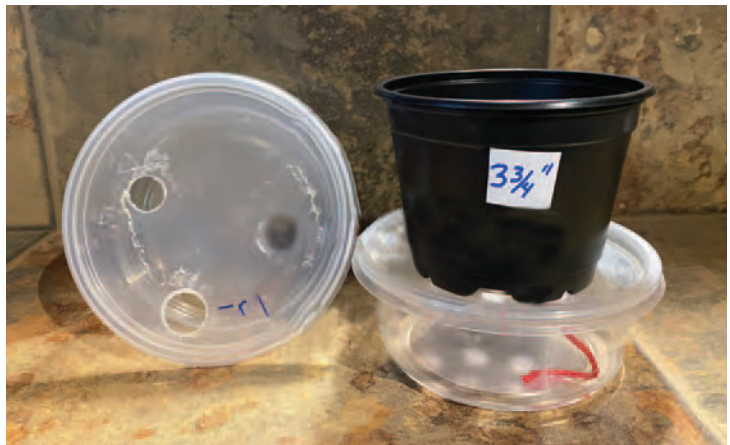
The pot should be a plastic pot that's an appropriate size for the plant. A good rule of thumb is that the pot should be one-third the diameter of the plant. (This is true for any watering method.)

The wick should be a synthetic material. Things like cotton, hemp and wool will rot. Synthetic mason's line or acrylic yarn are good choices. There is some debate over the diameter of the line or yarn to be used. I have no experience with mason's line, but I haven't seen any difference with yarn diameter or number of plies. The length of the wick will depend on the depth of the reservoir used. I cut my wicks about 5 inches long. I've never needed a longer one and it doesn't hurt if they're longer than really needed. (I prepare a lot of them at once so they're ready ahead of time if I need to do some repotting.)

Some wicking pots are available with their own detachable reservoirs. But regular plastic pots can be used with various containers that hold water. In choosing a container for use as a reservoir, the

first thing to consider is the size of the pot. The volume of water the container will hold is also a consideration. You want a reservoir that will hold at least several days' worth of water without going dry. I prefer ones that hold a week's worth so I only have to refill weekly.

Plastic containers (with lids) that are larger than your pot work well for your pot to sit on. You just need to melt or cut holes in the lids for the wicks and refill. Various jars, glasses and other containers work well to sit the pots into as long they are just slightly larger than the bottom diameter of the pot (but smaller than the diameter of the rim) and deep enough to hold water below the bottom of the pot. You need a little air space between the top of the water and the bottom of the pot. The pot shouldn't be sitting in the water.



Food containers with holes punched in the lid make good lidded reservoirs.



Canning jars are one example of a reservoir without a lid.

Regarding potting mix, most commercial African violet mixes do not contain enough coarse perlite even for bottom and top watering methods. Adding perlite is vital for successful wick watering. The mix for wicking should be made up of about 70% perlite. Too little perlite will result in boggy, waterlogged potting mix and rotting plants. Perlite absorbs minimal amounts of water, so it provides a nice, airy and loose substrate.

Pebbles are not a substitute for perlite. Perlite floats in water; pebbles do not. Pebbles do not create a light, airy mix. Vermiculite is not a substitute for perlite. It absorbs and holds water, while perlite does not. African violets thrive in well-drained but consistently barely moist potting mix.

Getting Prepared

Once you've gathered everything you need, it's time to start getting ready.

It's a good idea to soak your wicks the day before in a cup of water with just a tiny bit of dish detergent (as a wetting agent), not even a whole drop. You should also premoisten the potting mix ahead of time (just barely moist) and cover it. This gives the moisture a chance to be evenly distributed without any dry bits

of peat. This is something I try to do a day ahead of time.



This photo shows the placement of the wick inside the container.

Insert a wick through the bottom of the pot, letting it curl around the inside at the bottom. The wick doesn't have to come up the side of the pot at all — it just needs contact with the potting mix. Leave enough of a tail hanging out the bottom to be able to reach to the bottom of the reservoir once it's in place (it's OK if there's more wick in the water than necessary). Add the potting mix and plant. (If this is a test drive, just fill it to the top, tapping lightly to settle it in.) Determine how deep the pot will set in the reservoir (unless you're using a lidded container) and fill the reservoir with water just below that point. Again, the bottom of the pot shouldn't be submerged. Only the wick touches the water. Set the pot in (or on) the reservoir and it's done until the reservoir is nearly empty.

The first time you wick, it's a good idea to set everything up except the plant and check the moisture level of the potting mix over four or five days. If the potting mix becomes too wet, you'll know that there needs to be more perlite. It's better to try it out with no plant than it is to have to repot so soon. If all's well, pot the plant and you're good to go.



Photo credit: Marina Karpova

***Streptocarpus* 'MK-Elis'**

**2023 AVSA Convention
New Introduction**

Hybridized by: M. Karpova



Photo credit: Valentina Zub

P-Zolotye Peski

**2023 AVSA Convention
New Introduction**

Hybridized by: V. Zub
Standard



Photo credit: Galina Lazarenko

LiK-Shamanskie Tainy

2023 AVSA Convention New Introduction

Hybridized by: G. Lazarenko

Standard

Photos from the 2023 AVSA Convention

By Sophia Bennett

Email: editor@avsa.org

Nearly 170 people descended upon Atlanta from May 28 to June 4 for the annual AVSA National Convention. The celebration of all things African violets included the annual show, the chance to buy plants from seven Commercial Members, workshops on growing and design, and plenty of opportunities to socialize and meet new people.

The event opened with a showcase of numerous new introductions from growers all over the world. Stephen Covolo-Hudson and Richard Craft presented a slideshow that left people gasping and exclaiming, "I need one of those!" Other formal programming included Mark Romansky's popular workshop on cultivating moss and Rich Follett's inspirational session with ideas for bringing new members into clubs. Elmer Godeny led a workshop on design where everyone had a chance to try their hand at a sample exhibit. Conference attendees later voted for their favorites.

After the show winners were announced on Thursday night, people flooded into the show-room to admire the 268 African violets and other gesneriads on display. Wayne Geeslin took Best in Show, 2nd Best in Show and 3rd Best in Show as well as numerous other awards. Watch for a showcase of his plants in the September/October issue of *African Violet Magazine*.

A tour of the city and Atlanta Botanical Garden kept attendees busy between shopping and workshops. The annual Luncheon Auction was also a hit, with many people patiently waiting

to bid on plants, books and other donated items. Of course, down time was a perfect moment to visit with club members and friends or introduce yourself to someone you'd never met before.

On Saturday night, new Directors and Officers accepted responsibility for their positions at the Installation Banquet, led by former AVSA President (and current AVSA Secretary) Sue Ramser. The banquet was also a good opportunity to recognize the many volunteers who made the event possible, including Kathy Lahti, Randy Deutsch, Candace Baldwin, Danny Tidwell and Suzanne Roberts. Thanks also goes to Amy Carruth and Stephanie Travis for all of their work in advance of convention.



AVSA staff (from left) Sophia Bennett, Stephanie Travis and Amy Carruth (pictured with President Mary Corondan) worked hard to make the convention a success

Plan to join AVSA for the 2024 AVSA Convention in Phoenix, Arizona, from April 21 to 28.



The Showroom Awards Table. Photo credit: Richard Craft



The sales room was brimming with beautiful plants



Dr. Bill Price (seen here with auctioneer Elmer Godeny) donated generously to the Luncheon Auction.



Sue Ramser gives Mary Corondan the President's pin during the Installation Banquet. Photo credit: Richard Craft



The Installation Banquet on Saturday night. Photo credit: Richard Craft



Rich Follett presented a workshop on attracting new members to AVSA. Photo credit: Richard Craft



Mark Romansky taught a popular workshop on the magic of moss. Photo credit: Richard Craft



Convention attendees had the option to tour the Atlanta Botanical Garden. Photo credit: Richard Craft

“Perfectly Pittman” Video

This video chronicles the multiple hybrids, growing techniques, growing spaces and AVSA involvement of Hortense and Ray Pittman.



Jolly Orchid

**Available in the
AVSA Store.
DVD and Thumbdrive
format \$20**



Photo credit: Dr. Jeff Smith

***S. 5b. cl. grotei* Protzen**

Grown by: Dr. Jeff Smith

You're Invited to the 2024 AVSA Convention

By Candace Baldwin

Email: aviolets@hotmail.com

The 2024 AVSA National Convention will be April 21 to 28 in Phoenix, Arizona, also known as the Valley of the Sun. Yes, this is an earlier date than usual, but it means less time will pass before we gather with our violet friends again. We hope everyone will attend.

There is so much to see and do in Phoenix that you'll want to come early and stay after. Known for its sunny climate and spectacular desert landscapes, Phoenix and the surrounding cities feature vibrant culture and numerous opportunities for indoor and outdoor adventures.

Hundreds of years before any of the cities in the eastern part of our country were established, a community occupied the land known as Phoenix. The Pueblo Grande ruins in the heart of the city, which were occupied between 700 and 1400 AD, are a testament to our city's ancient roots. By the late 1800s, a small colony had formed where the city stands today. It was known by many names until 1868, when the name Phoenix was suggested, since the new town sprung from the ruins of a former civilization.

The Phoenix area embraces culture in all forms, from modern Native American art galleries, to St. Mary's Basilica with its soaring Spanish Colonial architecture, to Frank Lloyd Wright's winter home and desert laboratory called Taliesin West, nestled in the foothills of the McDowell Mountains. The magnificent Grand Canyon is just four hours away and the red rocks of Sedona only two hours.

The 2024 AVSA
National Convention
will be earlier than
usual. It will take
place April 21 to 28
in Phoenix, Arizona.

The DoubleTree Phoenix Tempe hotel, which will host the convention, is a gem with architecture reminiscent of the Southwest. There is lots of free parking, and it is easily accessible off Interstate 10 for our members who are driving. For those flying, use Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport (PHX) for the free airport shuttle to the hotel.

Phoenix has over 20 different museums. Possible tours include:

- The Heard Museum, an internationally acclaimed museum that is one of the best places to experience the myriad of cultures and art of American Indians of the Southwest.
- The Musical Instrument Museum, which takes you on a journey around the world and displays more than 6,800 musical instruments and objects from every corner of the globe.
- The Arizona Museum of Natural History, including the three-story indoor waterfall on Dinosaur Mountain, which features animatronic

dinosaurs and a flash flood display that runs every 30 minutes.



Photo credit: Musical Instrument Museum.

Or perhaps pay a visit to the Desert Botanical Garden, a 140-acre site with thousands of species of cacti, trees and flowers from all around the world.



Photo credit: Desert Botanical Garden.

Copper State African Violet Club is very pleased to be hosting the 2024 AVSA Convention. Come take a stroll on a hiking trail, savor outstanding

dining, chase the ball around on one of more than 100 golf courses, behold the many beautiful art galleries, try your luck at a local casino or simply sit back and enjoy one of our beautiful sunsets. In Phoenix, there really is something for everyone.



A hike is a great way to take in the natural beauty of Phoenix and the surrounding area. Photo credit: Maricopa County Parks and Recreation.



An Arizona sunset. Photo credit: Desert Botanical Garden/Adam Rodriguez.

SAVE THE DATE!

2024 AVSA CONVENTION



April 21-28, 2024

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Saturday, April 27, 9AM - 3PM

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Judges Breakfast Notes from the 2023 AVSA Convention

By Paul Kroll

Email: judges@avsa.org

Mary Corondan, Shows and Judges Chair, introduced the committee and gave her report. Then the following questions were answered by the Shows and Judges Committee members.

If a leaf is broken by or during placement, the leaf can be laid on the table next to the plant. This indicates that the leaf was intact and broken inadvertently during placement. It is possible to have a written note placed with the broken leaf with an explanation. The plant would be judged as if that leaf were still attached. Both the note and the leaf should be removed from the table before the public views the show.

Support rings are allowed to be placed on large plants that are on pedestals on the Court of Honor. This allows for the heavy leaves to be supported to prevent petiole damage. Plants in classes on the tables are not allowed to have support rings. If they are large, the table itself supports the leaf. Only after judging and the winning plants are placed on the Court of Honor are the support rings allowed. The rings should not be visible.

Occasionally, it has been observed that plant exhibits are being groomed after placement on the table(s) in their classes. Page 41 in the AVSA Handbook states, "Exhibits may not be altered or removed, except for replacing blooms in the design division." Of course, a plant may also be watered after entering.

Problems arise when there is no description available for plants that are not registered. If

the plant is not listed in First Class, it is the exhibitor's responsibility to provide a description (hybridizer's list, catalog listing, etc.) so that the plant may be entered properly. In an AVSA-sanctioned show, Russian/Ukrainian varieties shall be entered under the transliterated Russian/Ukrainian name, not under the translated name, unless the registered name is already translated. The following, for example: AE-It's Raining, Hello America! and LE-Las Vegas are not transliterated.

A question was asked about what takes precedence when entering a plant in specific classes. An edged blossom trumps all other characteristics. Some varieties are listed as "variable edge" and in that case, if the edge is not visible, the plant should be entered into the color class that is appropriate. To assist the judges and educate the public, the entry card may have a note placed on it that says variable edge.

There was an inquiry as to the difference between a two-tone and multicolored blossom. Two-tone blossoms have two or more shades of the same color while multicolored blossoms have two or more different colors.

When counting the active members in a club for the purposes of the SSA form, it is suggested that the affiliates use the active members only. Perhaps the club's bylaws might establish a category name for those who are peripheral members: virtual members (Zoom), associate members, inactive members, etc. Show schedule rules should reflect those categories.

The final judging panel should be certain to check the scores on the collection sheets. Avoid using tie scores on collection sheets. Each exhibit should have a different score. Adjusting the score by even one-tenth of a point will alleviate ties.

It is best not to leave the collection sheets lying on the table for everyone to see. The panel that judges the collections should pick up the completed sheets and carry them along for final reference by all panel members. When the final panel is assembled, the collection sheets should be given to them by the collection panel. Exhibitors may request to see the scores on their own collection sheets by contacting the schedule approver after the show. The collection sheets are not to be viewed at the show except by the judges who need them.

All are admonished not to judge plants viewed on social media. You have not seen the entire show and that makes a huge difference. You may wish to write constructive comments in response to social media postings.

A discussion ensued regarding container gardens and attendees commented on several aspects. Mary Corondan had made up a PowerPoint presentation of photos that were sent to her citing several examples of container gardens that had been exhibited. One point of discussion was that of the term “shallow” regarding the definition for dish gardens. AVSA has no definition of a shallow container, and some of the examples pictured were quite

deep as opposed to shallow. Judges need to comment on what they feel is proper for depth of the dish. Dominance of a container can spoil the overall perspective and be quite distracting. Proportion and scale are to be considered.

The use of driftwood or other wood within a container garden is acceptable. It is to be considered an accessory. As long as the overall height of the garden is attained by growing plant material, a piece of wood may be placed vertically. It should not have the appearance of being “planted,” such as a dead tree, but it may have the appearance of a fallen tree. If desired, it is always possible to place an educational card with the garden to explain the use of the wood. Another consideration is what the wood represents in the miniature landscape plan of the container garden. Points should be deducted under scale and proportion for wood pieces that are too large or dominate.

All plant material in container gardens should be growing. Moss, if used, must be live moss and not dried moss.

A mention was made regarding the rather flat landscape plans in many of the container gardens we see. Consult the Handbook for suggestions regarding landscape plan(s). Elements and principles of design are not considered in container gardens. That is why the “design” category is replaced by “landscape plan” and points awarded or deducted accordingly.



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Saving Marion

By Sharon Rosenzweig

Email: srosenzw100@comcast.net

Bay State African Violet Society was contacted by a wonderful gentleman named Kevin who was requesting help to save a very special African violet. The plant belonged to his grandmother, was passed down to his mother and has been in his care for the past 12 years. The plant was over 100 years old and had been doing OK until recently, when the leaves became limp and were dying.

I volunteered to meet with him to see what could be done to rejuvenate his precious African violet. He came to my house with the plant, which we named Marion after his grandmother.



The plant was in a glazed clay pot that was way too big and the soil had not been

changed in years. Upon examination, there was no root ball and the neck was dry and spongy. Definitely root rot.

I prepared Kevin for the drastic measures I was going to take and he said, “Do whatever you must to save Marion.”

I removed about five rows of limp leaves and just left about three rows of good leaves on the neck. Then I cut the neck back to good tissue and scraped off the dry brown stuff. I applied a tiny amount of rooting hormone to the neck and planted it in very loose moist potting mix. I placed Marion in a humidity dome made from two plastic containers clipped together with orchid clips.

I sent Kevin home with instructions on how to care for African violets, how to propagate from a leaf, a bag of my potting mix, some extra perlite, Optimara fertilizer and a 3 1/2-inch Oyama pot for future use. He promised to keep in touch and send photos of Marion’s progress.

I don’t know who was happier at the end of our session — Kevin for taking home a rescued plant or me for doing what I love best. And that is teaching others how to grow and care for African violets!



AV Creative Corner: Word Search

By Rich Follett

Email: avcreativecorner@gmail.com

Most African violet growers wonder, at some time or another, how new and unusual African violet hybrids are created. While some will follow through on their curiosity and actually hybridize, many remain afraid to try.

One of the first steps in learning to hybridize is to learn some of the terms associated with the practice. All of the terms in the word search puzzle below come from Jere Trigg's excellent article, "Hybridizing African Violets," which is available in the Learn section of the AVSA website.

To accept the Creative Corner challenge for this issue of the *AVM*, just complete the puzzle (find all 20 words; you can make a photocopy if you do not want to write in your magazine) and send a screenshot or photo of your work to me at avcreativecorner@gmail.com by August 15, 2023. I will place all the correct entrants' names into a drawing for a special AV-themed gift. The winner will be announced in the November/December issue of the *AVM*.

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C C U I C J Y F L B O R L D U Z V Z N C
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X E E P O D R T B E D C U P Q I T K J J
  
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pollination	gene	viable	cross
offspring	germination	longifolia	sack
genetics	recessive	seedling	trait
parent	foliage	hybrid	pod
anther	stigma	dominant	seed

The Triple Crown Win

By Kurt Jablonski

Email: kurtmjablonskijr@yahoo.com

On Saturday, May 20, 2023, I made African violet history by becoming the only exhibitor to ever win three consecutive Best in Shows and Best Standards with the same plant. In baseball they'd call it a Grand Slam, but I have dubbed it my Triple Crown win and I am over the moon.

The winning plant was Buckeye Nostalgia, hybridized by Pat Hancock. The first show it won was the African Violet Society of Springfield, Pennsylvania, show, held April 29 and 30, where it scored a 99.5 and was part of the Best AVSA Standard Collection. A week later, on May 6, the Garden State African Violet Club in New Jersey held its annual show and sale, where Buckeye Nostalgia scored a 99 and won the coveted gold rosette for the Best AVSA Standard Collection. Her final appearance was at the African

Violet Club of Burlington County, New Jersey, show and sale held on May 20, where she scored a 99.

When I first realized that this plant was going to be my No. 1 show prospect for the spring 2023 show season, I had no idea just how successful the plant would be. Based on my disbudding schedule, I knew it would be beautiful for the Springfield show and thought it might last for Garden State, but the stars truly aligned last week when the plant showed no sign of wear and had more fresh blossoms opening. To be honest, I jokingly said to Sandy Skalski and Paula Bal that it would be so neat if I could win all three shows with this plant. To my great surprise, it happened. I am a firm believer in positive thinking and putting out into the universe what you want to get back. It works!



At the last show, everyone kept asking me how I was able to accomplish this feat and what I did to keep the plant looking its best. To be honest, I simply followed my normal show schedule of repotting, grooming and disbudding to encourage optimal growth and bloom. However, after the second show I decided to move the plant, along with a few other show prospects, down to our basement for two weeks where the temperatures were much cooler. I believe this was crucial in helping the plant stay in tiptop shape.

This was my first show season in the North-east since moving from Miami Beach, Florida, last August, and I do not believe I could have started off any better. I had not shown since the 2019 convention, and this was a dream come true to come back on top. I must thank everyone, especially all my new club members and friends, for their unfailing support and enthusiasm over this great achievement of mine. Now, I need to get busy and start growing for a future convention. Here I come!



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Fund Reports for March/April 2023

By Randy G. Deutsch and Janet Riemer

Email: fundraising@avsa.org

Anne & Frank Tinari

Endowment Fund: \$1,063

The Anne & Frank Tinari Endowment Fund supports the long-term stability of the Society.

■ **\$500 to \$599**

Robert Bond, Charlottesville, VA
(In memory of Kathy Bond)

■ **\$100 to \$199**

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Marge Savage, Midland, TX
Noel Montgomery, Chicago, IL
Janet Riemer, Pennington, NJ
(In memory of Nancy Hayes)

■ **\$50 to \$99**

Albert and Linda Hall, Ravenwood, MO
(In memory of Nancy Hayes)
Columbus AVS, OH

■ **\$25 to \$49**

Susan Joy, New Albany, OH

■ **Under \$25**

Mueller's Greenhouses, Vista, CA
Evelyn Boyer, Austin, TX
Carol Hooley, Raymore, MO
Mary Frances Wasson, West Monroe, LA
Christopher Beney, Iowa City, IA

Editor's Note: In the last issue, Tinari Fund donor Marion Martin's location was listed incorrectly. She lives in West Columbia, SC. We apologize for the error.

Barbara Burde Endowment Fund: \$83

The Barbara Burde Endowment Fund supports the society's long-term needs in technology.

■ **\$50 to \$99**

Columbus AVS, OH

■ **\$25 to \$49**

Christopher Beney, Iowa City, IA
Evelyn Boyer, Austin, TX
Carol Hooley, Raymore, MO
Mueller's Greenhouses, Vista, CA

Booster Donations: \$663

Booster Donations support AVSA's ongoing general expenses.

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Jan Houston, Champaign, IL

■ **\$100 to \$199**

First AVS of Denton, TX
Linda Sumski, St. Louis, MO

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Garden State AVS, NJ
(In lieu of speaker fees for Glenda Williams)

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Anita McKee, Williamsville, NY

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Mueller's Greenhouses, Vista, CA
Gwen Ramirez, North Potomac, MD
Diane Reinke, Silver Spring, MD
James Schade, Bedford, OH

Boyce Edens Research Fund: \$288

The Boyce Edens Research Fund supports research and scholarships.

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Evelyn Boyer, Austin, TX

Carol Hooley, Raymore, MO

Mueller's Greenhouses, Vista, CA

Mary Frances Wasson, West Monroe, LA

In Memory

Byron Borck

Byron Borck passed away on March 24. He grew up in Fremont, Nebraska, and later moved to Santa Rosa, California. He was an excellent hybridizer who created the Sonoma series of African violets. He wrote several articles for *African Violet Magazine*.

Joan Santino

Joan Santino passed away on May 8. She was passionate about many things and truly loved her violets and those she met along the way. Joan was a member of the African Violet Society of Springfield, Delaware County, Pennsylvania (AVSS) for 38 years. She held many positions, including Recording Secretary, Vice President and President. Joan presented many educational programs and demonstrations that included design, dish gardens and terrariums, as well as all areas involved in good African violet and gesneriad growing during club meetings.

Joan was a Senior Judge and knew what quality show plants should look like. Every year, she was actively involved in developing the themes for annual shows. She continuously

helped club members turn their creative ideas into show themes. She was on the Classification and Passing Committee to make sure that nothing slipped by. Her interest, participation and experience resulted in many successful AVSS shows.

As a Senior Judge, she was asked to judge at numerous violet club shows in the tri-state area that comprises Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland. Joan's enthusiasm for African violets also extended into additional affiliates of AVSA. She was a member of Mid-Atlantic African Violet Society (MAAVS) for 23 years and held positions as President, Immediate Past President, Chairman of Special Committees, Chairman of Standing Committees and Affiliate Director. She loved traveling to all the shows and thoroughly enjoyed the good times.

In 2012, Joan received an Honorary AVSA membership at the 2011 AVSA National Convention in Cherry Hill, New Jersey. In 2020, Joan received the Hudson Award from AVSA.

Joan was an inspiration to all of us who met her over the years. She will be missed.



Photo credit: Elena Korshunova

**EK-Vesna v
Akvareliakh**

**2023 AVSA Convention
New Introduction**

Hybridized by: E. Korshunova
Standard



Photo credit: Elena Nikolaeva

***Sinningia Speciosa*
'EN-S Liubov'iu-Rosy'**

**2023 AVSA Convention
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Hybridized by: E. Nikolaeva

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Photo credit: Natalia Bulko

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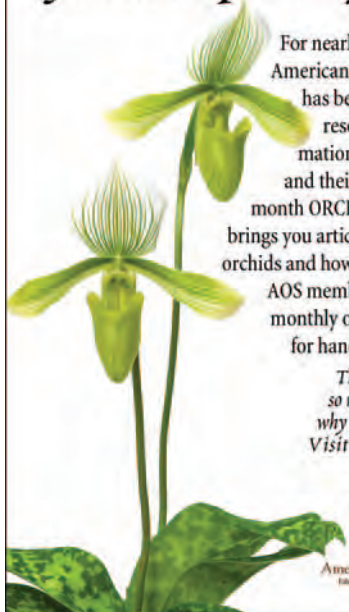


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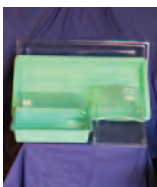
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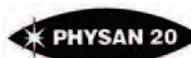
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